

National Women's History Month events among 13 special programs sponsored by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs during March 2015

(DOVER, Del.—Feb. 12, 2015)—During the month of March 2015, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be offering 13 special programs at sites across the state. Eight of these programs will be presented in celebration of National Women's History Month. A full schedule of events is listed below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.



The achievements of Dr. Ruth Mitchell Laws will be explored in the program "Outstanding Women of Kent County: A Mother's Legacy and a

Daughter's
Contributions to
Community" on March 26,
2015.

Highlights of the month include "Outstanding Women of Kent County: A Mother's Legacy and a Daughter's Contributions to Community," a History Coffee-Hour lecture in which Dr. Cherritta Mathews discusses the impact of her mother, [Dr. Ruth Mitchell Laws](#), an educator and former vice president of Delaware Technical Community College. Matthews herself went on to become one of the first students to end segregation at Dover High School in 1954. The program will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at [The Old State House](#), located at 25 The Green, in Dover.

Throughout the month, the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road in Dover, will present "A Woman's World," a series of programs that explore the daily responsibilities of 18th-century women and the domestic skills that they were expected to possess. "A Woman's World" programs will take place between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on March 7, 21 and 28.



Historic-site

interpreters Vertie Lee (left) and Barbara Carrow portray two of the women who lived and worked at the John Dickinson Plantation.

Finally, on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m., the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), located at 211 Delaware St., in New Castle, will present “Louise du Pont Crowningshield–Historic Preservation Pioneer” a presentation by Kim Burdick, advisor emeritus to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, on the life of the well-known preservationist and sister of Henry Francis du Pont of Winterthur. Crowningshield helped lay the groundwork for what would become America’s historic-preservation movement, and her efforts helped preserve the historic town of New Castle.

Designated by joint resolutions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate and proclaimed by six American presidents, [National Women’s History Month](#) is an opportunity to honor and celebrate women’s lives and historic achievements. Each year National Women’s History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2015, the theme is “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives.”

Special events, March 2015

Saturday, March 7, 2015

“The Women Who Influenced Victor.” Women’s History Month tours examine the glamorous lives of the many female artists of the Victor Talking Machine Company, accompanied by early recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, March 7, 2015

"A Woman's World." Explore cloth production and learn how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." Women's History Month program. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, March 7, 2015

"War of the Roses: The Suffragist Movement in Delaware." Women's History Month living-history theater presentation explores Delaware women who were instrumental in the national suffrage movement. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Programs at 1 and 3 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, March 7, 2015

"The Minstrel Boy." Introductory talk by Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs historical interpreters on the life of the noted Irish tenor John McCormack, accompanied by recordings by the artist played on authentic Victor Talking Machines, followed by the headline program: "Irish Heritage Celebration–Tenor Matt Macis." [Schwartz Center for the Arts](#), 226 S. State St., Dover. "Minstrel Boy" at 7 p.m. followed by Matt Macis. Admission charge. 302-678-5152.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

"Louise du Pont Crowningshield–Historic Preservation Pioneer." Presentation by Kim Burdick, advisor emeritus to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, explores the life of the well-known preservationist and sister of Henry Francis du Pont of Winterthur. Crowningshield helped lay the groundwork for what would become America's historic-preservation movement, and her efforts helped preserve the historic town of New Castle. Women's History Month program. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

"Pi(e) Day at the Plantation." Celebrate Pi Day by exploring pie recipes from the 1700s and baking pies 18th-century-style. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Delaware's Decades—the 2000s. Lecture by Bill Ayrey, lab manager and company historian from [ILC Dover](#), who will discuss the future of space travel and space suits from the early 2000s to the present. Eighth and final installment of a series exploring decades in Delaware's history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than March 13, 2015.

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Concert by Celtic Harvest. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 7 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, March 21, 2015

"A Woman's World." Experience the art of water coloring, view family drawings and paint your own watercolor creation while learning how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." Women's History Month program. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

"History Goes Hollywood: 'The Women.' " Screening of the 1939 film about the lives and power struggles of various wealthy Manhattan socialites, based on the play by Clare Boothe Luce. Program features a short discussion of Luce's life and accomplishments before the screening. Women's History Month program. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Thursday, March 26, 2015

"Outstanding Women of Kent County: A Mothers Legacy and a Daughter's Contributions to Community." Women's History Month program in which Dr. Cherritta Mathews discusses the impact of her mother, Dr. Ruth Mitchell Laws, an educator and former vice president of Delaware Technical Community College. Matthews herself went on to become one of the first students to end segregation at Dover High School in 1954. Part of the History Coffee-Hour Lecture Series. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 5:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, March 28, 2015

"A Woman's World." Explore the art of paper quilling and learn how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." Women's History Month program. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Exhibits, March 2015

In addition to special programming, the following exhibits are on display at Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs museums.

Opening March 4, 2015

"World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis." Designed by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the exhibit features photographs taken in western Europe from 1943-45. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover.

Limited visitation hours; call 302-739-9194 before planning a visit. Free admission.

Ongoing

[“Delaware and the War of 1812.”](#) Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.”](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and

wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wed.—Sat., 10 a.m.—3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

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